

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reconsidering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-8 were pending in this application. New claims 10 and 11 have been added by way of this reply. Therefore, claims 1-8 and 10-11 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-8 have been amended to correct the claim language and a typographical error. Further, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a longitudinal opening is provided on a top portion of the adapter, and claim 10 has been added to specify that the longitudinal opening allows an upwardly inclined passage of the rod when the rod is fitted. In addition, claim 11 has been added to specifically identify what is intended to be the claimed invention. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 5 and paragraph [0028] of the publication of the present application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102*Claims 1, 2, and 5-9*

Claims 1, 2, and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 1108580 (“Bacher”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Of the rejected claims, claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 recites an arrangement for fixing a windscreen wiper blade on an arm. The blade has a through transverse pivot spindle intended for forming a pivoting connection with the arm and has an end rod. The arrangement comprises an independent piece referred to as an adapter mounted on the blade in which the rod is fitted longitudinally. Further, a web is provided *on a top portion of the adapter* with a longitudinal opening allowing passage of the rod when fitted the rod is fitted. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, requires, in part, that a web is provided *on a top portion of the adapter* with a longitudinal opening allowing passage of the rod.

Bacher shows in Figures 1-4 an arm 1 pivotally coupled to a wiper blade 3-7 using a pivot spindle. Specifically, the arm 1 has an end rod 11 received longitudinally into the adapter 2, in which the adapter 2 is coupled to the wiper blade 3-7. However, Bacher’s alleged opening 10 is formed at one side of the element 2, not on a top portion. In fact, Bacher neither shows nor suggests such a web provided with a longitudinal opening allowing passage of the rod, much less a web provided *on a top portion of the adapter*, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Bacher fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Bacher.

Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, and 8

Claims 1-5, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,831,222 (“Kushida”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kushida shows in Figures 2, 3, and 8 a coupling means 4 to rotationally connect an arm 1 to a pressure unit 3 and a blade unit 2. The coupling means 4 is comprised of a housing 10, an upper resilient member 30, and a lower resilient member 40. However, similar to Bacher, Kushida merely shows an opening at one side of the housing (*see* Kushida, for example, element 12 of Figure 3). As in Bacher, Kushida neither shows nor suggests such a web provided with a longitudinal opening allowing passage of the rod, much less a web *on a top portion of the web*, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Kushida fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Kushida. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 10 and 11 have been added by this reply. New claims 10 and 11 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as stated above because claims

10 and 11 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, favorable consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102/015001).

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